

CURRICULUM STRANDS

Introduction to Film Criticism

1. Film Production, Distribution, Exhibition
 - a. Mechanics
 - b. Bringing the Film to the Spectator
 - c. Modes of Production

2. Film Form
 - a. Concepts
 - b. Principles
 - c. Principles of Narrative Construction
 - d. Classical Hollywood Cinema

3. Types of Films
 - a. Understanding Genre
 - b. Three Genres
 - c. Documentary
 - d. Experimental Film
 - e. Animated Film

4. Literary Techniques in Film
 - a. Genre
 - b. Plot and Setting
 - c. Theme
 - d. Characters
 - e. Symbolism
 - f. Style
 - g. Imagery

5. Film Style
 - a. Mise-en-Scene
 - b. Realism
 - c. Power and Aspects of Mise-en-Scene
 - d. Photographic Image
 - e. Framing
 - f. Takes
 - g. Editing
 - h. Continuity Editing
 - i. Sound
 - j. Fundamentals and Dimensions of Sound
 - k. Functions of Film Sound
 - l. Style
 - m. Analyzing Film Style

6. Cinematic Critiques
 - a. Analyzing Directorial Decisions in Film
 - b. Understanding Directorial Decisions in Film

7. Critical Analysis of Films
 - a. Sample Analyses
 - b. Classical Narrative
 - c. Narrative Alternatives
 - d. Documentary Form and Style
 - e. Form, Style, and Ideology

8. Film History
 - a. Film Form and Film History
 - i. Early Cinema
 - ii. Classic Hollywood
 - iii. German Expressionism
 - iv. French Impressionism
 - v. Soviet Montage
 - vi. Invention of Sound
 - vii. Italian Neorealism
 - viii. French New Wave
 - ix. New Hollywood
 - x. Contemporary Hong Kong
 - xi. Modern America

9. Writing the Film Review
 - a. Bringing it all Together
 - b. Analyzing Other Film Reviews
 - c. Outlining Other Film Reviews
 - d. Modeling Other Film Reviews
 - e. Adopting a Position
 - f. Supporting a Position
 - g. Explaining a Position in Writing
 - h. Verbally Discussing and Defending a Position

10. Recognition
 - a. Recognizing These Skills
 - b. Applying These Skills to Other Media

Selected Texts:

Bordwell, David and Thompson, Kristin. *Film Art: An Introduction*. New York, NY: McGraw-Hill, 2004. (Primary)

Baran, Stanley J. *Introduction to Mass Communication: Media Literacy and Culture*. New York, NY: McGraw-Hill, 2004. (Secondary)